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Communications

EPA Office of Research and Development

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Subject: Flint Readout 06/01/16

Flint Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

[Flint's Weaver offers updates on water authority](#)

By Jacob Carah, Detroit News 06/01/16 12:28 AM

Residents received updates on progress on the county's new water pipeline at a town hall Tuesday with Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, who said the city has "the most to lose" in any further missteps in the move to a new water authority. The mayor told the audience she has been in "a lot of discussion of what is happening with the (water) board and completion of the water authority's pipeline," referring to the new Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline from Lake Huron. The mayor said the city "has the most to lose, and we already lost the most" over the new pipeline.

[Flint town hall meeting focuses on lead pipe replacement, medicaid expansion](#)

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 05/31/16 11:21 PM

A panel of officials headed up the Flint's mayor talked to residents Tuesday evening about expanded medicaid and the acceptance of proposals to replace lead service lines. On Tuesday,

May 31 Flint Mayor Karen Weaver's monthly town hall meeting was held at Bethel United Methodist Church on North Ballenger Highway. Weaver said the meetings are a way to let people know what is going on in the city.

Flint mayor urged fee cuts for service line work

By Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 05/31/16 10:10 PM

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said Tuesday that she had asked the City Council to reduce or waive permit fees for the replacement of problematic lead service lines in the city but her efforts were rebuffed. The mayor's comments came three days after the Detroit Free Press reported that in a pilot project led by the city, the average permit fees of \$2,400 per site, according to the 115-page report produced by the engineering company Rowe Professional Services for the State of Michigan. In its report, Rowe found that the \$2,200 pavement cut fee was the largest portion of the total fees charged and wondered whether the fee could be reduced in the future with the cooperation of contractors.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

Flint 'building hope,' supporting kids after water crisis, says Flint doctor

By Emily Lawler, MLIVE 06/01/16 4:38 PM

The pediatrician who rang the alarm over rising lead levels in Flint children addressed the Mackinac Policy Conference Wednesday, saying that Flint was flipping the story to support its children. "It is a place of hope. We are building hope," Hanna-Attisha said. She said Flint was the birthplace of General Motors, and was once an economic powerhouse. But as the city's economy collapsed and coffers shrank, the state brought in an emergency manager in 2011. Under an emergency manager the city switched to the Flint River as a water source. The more corrosive water leached lead from pipes into the water supply.

Doctor: Lack of legislative urgency hurts Flint

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 05/31/16 11:28 PM

The pediatrician who discovered high levels of lead in Flint's children hopes to get the state's public policy leaders and business executives more engaged in the Flint water crisis recovery during this week's annual Mackinac Policy Conference. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, who is scheduled to speak for 10 minutes Wednesday afternoon, said she sees slowing motivation among state and federal government officials to marshal the financial aid needed for long-term

health care for lead-exposed Flint children and adults and replacing lead-leaching pipes that caused the public health calamity.

Funding and Aid for Flint

Gores, basketball association launch healthy food effort in Flint

By Blake Froling, Crain's Detroit Business 06/01/16 1:06 PM

Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores' FlintNOW initiative is working with the National Basketball Players Association and Michigan State University-Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative to help Flint residents gain access to healthy food options. On Monday, 8,000 "nutrition backpacks" will be distributed through Flint public schools for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Each backpack will include three \$5 gift certificates to the Flint Farmers' Market and information about healthy eating and nutrition, as well as a minibasketball.

Federal agency awards \$475,194 for Flint water crisis health services

By Blake Froling, Crain's Detroit Business 05/31/16 4:50 PM

The state of Michigan received a \$475,194 grant Tuesday from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to assist in providing behavioral health and support services for Flint residents affected by the water crisis. "Crises such as this one can take a heavy toll on people and communities, including on their emotional health and well-being," SAMHSA Principal Deputy Administrator Kana Enomoto said in a statement. "Although most people bounce back, others may need extra assistance to cope and recover. This emergency response grant, along with other SAMHSA programs, will help give people the support they need to resume healthy, fulfilled lives."

Scientists: Flint Water Safe For Bathing, Despite Mark Ruffalo's Claims

By Arthur Delaney, Huffington Post 06/01/16 12:42 PM

Unfiltered tap water in Flint, Michigan, is still unsafe for drinking, but a team of researchers said this week they can find no scientific reason not to use it for bathing. Citing his own research, actor Mark Ruffalo has said Flint residents shouldn't trust earlier government assurances that the water is safe for washing because of chemicals like chloroform, which is a byproduct of chlorine

disinfection. “The news is pretty good when it comes to disinfection byproducts — they’re really not all that high,” said David Reckhow, a water expert and professor of civil engineering with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, at a press conference in Flint on Tuesday.

Water experts blast actor Mark Ruffalo as questions about Flint's water quality remain unanswered

By Jim Kiertzner WXYZ Detroit 05/31/16 5:28 PM [video clip]

Flint’s water is still not safe to drink and use for cooking, and now experts are concerned that Hollywood is turning Flint into a real life horror story. We continue to hear stories from people in Flint that they can’t shower and bathe in their tap water because they get rashes and other health problems. A Hollywood actor is seizing on that and the experts say, the story he’s telling should not be believed.

Politics

Reports of Gov. Rick Snyder's demise 'overblown,' he says, media bunch of 'Eeyores'

By Emily Lawler, MLIVE 06/01/16 1:40 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder took the stage and took on the media at the Mackinac Policy Conference Wednesday, encouraging Michiganders to take on a positive attitude, even in the face of challenges like the Flint water crisis. "The reports of my demise are well overblown," he said, riffing on a famous Mark Twain quote and drawing applause from the standing-room-only audience.

Flint water crisis was 'overplayed,' Michigan DEQ exec tells investigator

By Ron Fonger 06/01/16 1:32 PM

A top executive with the state Department of Environmental Quality told Michigan State Police in March that the Flint water crisis was "overplayed" and "more created than anything else" — possibly by people with ulterior motives. DEQ Chief Deputy Director Jim Sygo made the comments to Michigan State Police, according to an investigative report obtained by MLive-The Flint Journal.

Poll: Snyder's approval ratings take a major nosedive

By Detroit Metro Times 06/01/16 11:04 AM

A new statewide poll highlights Gov. Rick Snyder's lowest approval ratings since he took the helm in January of 2011.

Four Months and Counting for Records from Agency at Center of Flint Water Crisis

By Tom Cantert, CAPCON 06/01/16

The state agency that has been criticized the most for mistakes and alleged deception in the Flint water crisis says it will take four months before it releases public records requested under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. Generally, government agencies have no more than 15 days to respond to a FOIA request and release the relevant information. They may also require a reasonable fee to cover the cost of retrieving data and processing the request.

Other News

Showers a thing of the past as Flint woman seeks answers to rash outbreak

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 06/01/16 1:30 PM

Cynthia Castillo-Osorio steers clear of the shower these days. Afraid of the painful welts she used to get when she showered, the 41-year-old Flint woman mostly uses the sink to bathe or pours water on herself in the bathtub -- all the while wondering if it is the water itself that is hurting her. Like others in Flint, Castillo is waiting for government investigators to tell her if the rashes on her body are linked to the city's disastrous switch to the Flint River two years ago.

AARP leads effort to reach out to seniors affected by Flint water crisis

By Jennifer Munoz, WOTV 4 06/01/16 12:21 PM

AARP Michigan will lead a collaborative effort to assess and address the impact of the Flint water crisis on older adults. Joining forces with the AARP Foundation, the Valley Area Agency on Aging, the Council of Michigan Community Foundations and others, AARP Michigan will host two listening sessions in Flint on June 4 and June 5, followed by a survey of 800 city residents age 50 and older.

Ripple Effect

By Ben Paynter, WIRED 06/01/16

AT HIS HOME near Kearsley Park, on the east side of Flint, Michigan, Tony Palladeno Jr. grabs his keys and a pair of 1-liter medical-grade plastic bottles—one full and one empty. He filled the first yesterday, with slightly cloudy water from his own tap. To fill the second, he strolls a few doors down to a two-story home he once rented out. The place looks move-in-ready, with new windows, fresh trim, and crisp beige siding. But it's vacant, just like three other rentals Palladeno owns on this block.

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